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**Annual Report**  
OF THE  
**Medical Officer of Health**

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**1946**



## MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman : ALDERMAN J. A. DEAN.

Vice-Chairman : COUNCILLOR R. J. WHALLEY.

Members :

The Mayor (Alderman R. Ralphson, J.P.)

Alderman H. G. Holland

Alderman A. Jones, J.P.

Alderman J. Stevenson, J.P.

Councillor J. Brooks

„ J. Callaghan

„ H. Hurst

„ R. Matthews

„ J. Seddon, M.C., J.P.

„ H. H. Bradshaw

|                             |
|-----------------------------|
| Alderman R. H. Urmson, J.P. |
|-----------------------------|

|                          |
|--------------------------|
| (Died 11th August, 1946) |
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## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Chairman : COUNCILLOR MRS. E. STEVENSON

Vice-Chairman : ALDERMAN A. JONES, J.P.

Members :

THE MAYOR (ALDERMAN R. RALPHSON, J.P.)

Alderman W. McManus.

Councillor J. Brooks

Councillor J. Heathcote

Councillor J. Seddon, M.C., J.P.

„ W. Welsby

„ R. J. Whalley

Co-opted Members :

Mrs. Cooper

Mrs. Scott

Mrs. Crabtree

Mrs. Ralphson

|                      |
|----------------------|
| Councillor J. Bridge |
|----------------------|

|                          |
|--------------------------|
| (Died 8th October, 1946) |
|--------------------------|

## STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Medical Officer of Health...                   | R. Sydney Davidson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.   |
| Consultant Obstetrician and Gynæcologist...    | D. C. Racker, M.B., CH.B.,<br>M.R.C.O.G., F.R.C.S.   |
| Ophthalmic Surgeon.....                        | John Morrison, M.B., CH.B. (also School Oculist).  |
| Aural Surgeon .....                            | W. B. McKelvie, M.D., CH.M., F.R.C.S., D.L.O.<br>(also School Aurist)  |
| Dental Surgeon .....                           | G. C. Royley, L.D.S. (also School Dental<br>Officer)   |
| Senior Sanitary Inspector...                   | A. H. S. Lewis, Cert. R.S.I., S.I.E. Jt. Board<br>R.S.I., Food Inspection.   |
| Sanitary Inspector .....                       | R. Hilton, Cert. R.S.I., S.I.E. Jt. Board, R.S.I.,<br>Food Inspection.   |
| Health Visitors :.....<br>(also School Nurses) | Miss A. Pendlebury, A.R.S.I. Certs. M.C.W.<br>and C.M.B.<br>Miss H. E. S. Holmes, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. (R.S.I.)<br>Miss J. M. Millar, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. (R.S.I.)<br>Miss C. E. Ashley, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. (R.S.I.)<br>(Resigned June 28th, 1946.) |
| Clerks.....                                    | T. Shaw (part time)<br>Miss J. Harrison (part time). (Resigned 25th May,<br>1946).<br>Miss M. M. Helme (part time). (Appointed 11th<br>June, 1946).  |

# To the Mayor, Aldermen and Members of the Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the year 1946, on the health of the Borough, together with a report on the work of the Health Department.

It is a report that must bring satisfaction to those who regard the health of the people as of paramount importance, and a report that should bring to the members of the Health Committee and the Council statistical proof of the beneficial results of their work in the council chamber.

On the eve of a National Health Service, and in the hour of uncertainty as to how much of the present Health Service will in future be maintained by the Borough, a little retrospection may be forgiven.

To this end, the years 1936 to 1945 have been examined and compared with the year under review, 1946. Ten years form a reasonable slice of time on which to make comparisons.

**TABLE I.**

| Year               | Total<br>Population | MORTALITY RATE |         |              | BIRTH RATE |
|--------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------|--------------|------------|
|                    |                     | Total          | Infants | Still Births |            |
| 1936               | 28,110              | 13.7           | 63      | 29           | 12.8       |
| 1937               | 27,920              | 14.1           | 85      | 56           | 12.6       |
| 1938               | 27,910              | 13.9           | 60      | 64           | 12.4       |
| 1939               | 27,740              | 13.6           | 55      | 57           | 12.9       |
| 1940               | 26,650              | 14.5           | 53.4    | 21.3         | 15.4       |
| 1941               | 26,420              | 13.5           | 43.6    | 78           | 14.2       |
| 1942               | 26,260              | 11.6           | 76      | 49.9         | 17.4       |
| 1943               | 25,810              | 13.7           | 81      | 52.7         | 18.0       |
| 1944               | 25,270              | 12.5           | 39.8    | 36           | 19.8       |
| 1945               | 25,230              | 13.6           | 64      | 37           | 17.1       |
| Average<br>1936-45 |                     | 13.4           | 62      | 48           | 15.2       |
| 1946               | 27,070              | 12.4           | 41      | 40           | 19.4       |

The population, 28,110 in 1936, dwindled to 25,230 in 1945, and this year, with 27,070, appears to be moving towards its former level.

The mortality rate for the year is 12.4 persons per 1000 of the population. The average for the preceding ten years is 13.4, with an average birth rate for this period of 15.2, and a birth rate for this year of 19.4, which is in keeping with the increased birth rate of England and Wales.

Perhaps the greatest stride forward has been made in the reduction of Infant Mortality. Once one of the black spots of the country, Farnworth now compares favourably with less industrial towns. The present Infant Mortality Rate of 41 is a definite advance on the average of 62 for the preceding ten years, (when it has been as high as 85 in 1937) and is below the present rate of 43 for England and Wales. There is, however, still room for improvement.

**TABLE II**  
INFANTILE MORTALITY—1942 to 1946

| YEAR | Died in Hospital | Died at home | Certified by Coroner |
|------|------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| 1942 | 20               | 13           | 2                    |
| 1943 | 23               | 14           | 1                    |
| 1944 | 12               | 7            | 1                    |
| 1945 | 12               | 10           | 6                    |
| 1946 | 14               | 7            | 1                    |

The figures for the last five years showing the infants who have died in hospital and those who have died at home tell their own story.

In 1944, the Infant Mortality Rate was 39.8, a year when only 7 fatal illnesses occurred in their own homes. In 1946, 7 again died in their own homes. In 1942, 1943 and 1945, 13, 14 and 10 respectively died in their own homes and the Infant Mortality Rates for these years were 76, 81 and 64.

It seems that chest conditions in babies which for treatment require skilled nursing, feeding, fresh air and perhaps the administration of oxygen, have a better chance of recovery in hospital. Such hospital accommodation is available for ailing infants whose home conditions are not the best to ensure recovery.

**TABLE III**

|                 | ANTE-NATAL CLINIC |         |             | MINOR AILMENTS |             | Consultations | Total attendance of infants under 1 year and children 1 to 5 years | EXPECTANT MOTHERS |             |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------|-------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|--|-------------------|-------------|
|                 | Sessions          | Mothers | Attendances | Children       | Attendances |               |  | Number            | Attendances |
| 1936            | 25                | 130     | 418         | 49             | 271         | 568           | 7407   | 181               | 697         |
| 1937            | 26                | 123     | 370         | 28             | 246         | 637           | 6572   | 154               | 647         |
| 1938            | 25                | 183     | 524         | 68             | 545         | 561           | 6618   | 183               | 524         |
| 1939            | 29                | 211     | 620         | 52             | 363         | 731           | 6808   | 182               | 263         |
| 1940            | 34                | 258     | 723         | 63             | 497         | 637           | 5647   | 234               | 817         |
| 1941            | 28                | 244     | 602         | 112            | 706         | 540           | 6796   | 297               | 1083        |
| 1942            | 31                | 303     | 708         | 83             | 384         | 422           | 7637   | 351               | 1706        |
| 1943            | 31                | 307     | 736         | 109            | 659         | 471           | 7161   | 338               | 2195        |
| 1944            | 49                | 366     | 1080        | 151            | 635         | 512           | 7354   | 418               | 2351        |
| 1945            | 49                | 325     | 967         | 259            | 1245        | 623           | 6006   | 337               | 2152        |
| Average 1936-45 | 33                | 245     | 674         | 97             | 555         | 570           | 6800   | 267               | 1243        |
| 1946            | 49                | 526     | 1301        | 270            | 1247        | 672           | 8124   | 530               | 3359        |

The safe-guarding of the mother and child is one of the most important duties of a Health Department and the Borough of Farnworth can look back with pride on its achievements in this field of social welfare.

The statistics in this table show the increase in individuals attending and the gross attendances of the mothers and children from 1936 to 1946.

This authority has been markedly conscious of its duties in Maternity and Child Welfare. and its progressive record is comparable to that of any large city.

The milestone in the Maternity and Child Welfare Service was the building of a Clinic for Maternity and Child Welfare and School Children's Welfare, which was opened on the 12th January, 1938. Such a building designed and built for its particular purpose has an overwhelming advantage over any existing building adapted to meet, as far as possible, the needs of a service.

The new clinic set the standard for the care of mothers and children. The medical and nursing staff were thus encouraged to make the services centred in the clinic as efficient and successful as the building itself.

The ten years record in Table III is an appropriate testimony to the far sighted policy of the Council and the enthusiasm of the staff in this most important branch of public health work.

It is doubtful whether in future years there can be any great improvement in these clinic attendance figures, unless the population the clinic serves is increased.

During the year, the Children's Nurseries in Bridgewater Street and Park Street were closed and a Nursery School under the County Council was opened in Bridgewater Street.

Progress in the repair of houses to meet the requirements of healthy homes is lamentably slow. The shortage of materials and the various restrictions which the economical situation demands are disheartening to those who would improve housing conditions expediently.

The milk supply and the supply of ice cream are still a main concern of the sanitary staff.

It is pleasing to note that serious epidemic disease has again been absent, and that the health of the people has remained, on the whole, good.

The Birth Rate is increasing and the Death Rate is decreasing, and, what is more important, we are living to a greater age than our forbears. It says much for industrial Farnworth that its infantile mortality can be so low and that, among the 337 deaths, there were 43 over 80 years of age and of these 2 passed the 90th year.

**TABLE IV.**

337 DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS.

| Age   | Number | Age         | Number |
|-------|--------|-------------|--------|
| 0—15  | 30     | 50—60       | 49     |
| 15—25 | 4      | 60—70       | 63     |
| 25—40 | 12     | 70—80       | 108    |
| 40—50 | 28     | 80 and over | 43     |

As in former years, I am indebted for the encouragement and support of the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, and for the loyal co-operation of the Staff of the Department and the voluntary workers at the clinic.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

## STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area = 1504 statute acres.

Population... 27,070 ...Estimated, mid 1946.  
28,717 ...1931 Census.

|                                     |     |     |          |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|----------|
| Number of inhabited houses, 1931    | ... | ... | 7104     |
| Number of inhabited houses, 1946    | ... | ... | 8330     |
| Rateable Value (1st April, 1946)... | ... | ... | £139,358 |
| Sum represented by 1d. rate         | ... | ... | £546     |

### Vital Statistics for the year 1946.

#### BIRTHS :

|                                     | Males     | Females         | Total |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------|
| Legitimate ... ..                   | 302       | 198             | 500   |
| Illegitimate ... ..                 | 10        | 16              | 26    |
| Total Births ... ..                 | 312       | 214             | 526   |
| Still Births ... ..                 | 14        | 8               | 22    |
|                                     | Farnworth | England & Wales |       |
| Birth-rate per 1,000 population     | 19.4      | 19.1            |       |
| Still Births per 1,000 total births | 40.0      | —               |       |
| „ per 1,000 population              | 0.81      | 0.53            |       |

#### CAUSES OF DEATH IN ALL AGES IN 1946.

|                                       |     |     |     |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Bronchitis ... ..                     | ... | ... | 36  |
| Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..          | ... | ... | 11  |
| Whooping cough ... ..                 | ... | ... | 2   |
| Other respiratory diseases            | ... | ... | 4   |
| Influenza ... ..                      | ... | ... | 4   |
| Tuberculosis—respiratory              | ... | ... | 9   |
| Cancer ... ..                         | ... | ... | 56  |
| Diabetes ... ..                       | ... | ... | 4   |
| Heart disease ... ..                  | ... | ... | 88  |
| Other circulatory diseases...         | ... | ... | 5   |
| Intra-cranial vascular lesions        | ... | ... | 29  |
| Nephritis ... ..                      | ... | ... | 16  |
| Ulcer of stomach or duodenum          | ... | ... | 4   |
| Other digestive diseases ... ..       | ... | ... | 9   |
| Premature birth or congenital defects | ... | ... | 14  |
| Childbirth ... ..                     | ... | ... | 3   |
| Cerebro-spinal fever ... ..           | ... | ... | 2   |
| Diphtheria ... ..                     | ... | ... | 3   |
| Diarrhoea ... ..                      | ... | ... | 1   |
| Suicide ... ..                        | ... | ... | 3   |
| Road traffic accidents ... ..         | ... | ... | 3   |
| Other deaths from violence            | ... | ... | 6   |
| All other causes ... ..               | ... | ... | 25  |
| Total                                 | ... | ... | 337 |

## DEATHS :

| Deaths of infants under 1 year : | Males | Females | Total |
|----------------------------------|-------|---------|-------|
| Legitimate ... ..                | 14    | 7       | 21    |
| Illegitimate ... ..              | 1     | —       | 1     |
|                                  | —     | —       | —     |
| Total                            | 15    | 7       | 22    |

|   | Farnworth    | England & Wales |
|---|--------------|-----------------|
| Infant Mortality Rate                             | 41 per 1,000 | 43 per 1,000    |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)             | ...          | 1               |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough                        | ...          | 2               |
| Deaths from Measles ... ..                        | ...          | Nil             |
| Premature Birth ... ..                            | ...          | 8               |
| Death Rate per 1,000 population (Farnworth)       | ...          | 12.4            |
| Death Rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales) | ...          | 11.5            |

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

### HOSPITALS FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

#### (1) Smallpox.

Ainsworth Smallpox Hospital under the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board receives for treatment cases of smallpox from this area, should they occur.

#### (2) Other Infectious Diseases.

As in former years, infectious diseases other than smallpox are treated in Ladywell Hospital, Salford, or the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Bolton.

### AMBULANCE SERVICE.

A twenty-four hour ambulance service is maintained for the districts of Farnworth, Kearsley and Little Lever. During the year, the ambulances travelled 14,699 miles removing accidents, urgent illnesses and cases for periodic treatment to hospitals in Manchester, Salford and Bolton.

### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

During the year, 250 swabs were examined for the presence of the C diphtheriae and of these 5 were reported positive. One sample of blood was sent for agglutination reactions.

Details of the examinations of milk samples are given later in this report. All examinations were carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.

## MIDWIVES.

There are four resident midwives in the area, under the supervision of the Lancashire County Council. Close co-operation is maintained between these midwives and the Maternity Services of the Borough. The midwives attend the Ante-natal Clinics held weekly in the Farnworth Clinic.

## CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The Clinic, Albert Road, Farnworth, serves all the clinics appertaining to the School Medical Service of the County Council, and the Maternity and Child Welfare Services of the Borough.

The attendances at the Child Welfare Clinics totalled 8,124 and the attendances of mothers at the Ante-natal Clinic 1301, both figures being the highest recorded since the service was in operation.

## CLINIC TIME TABLE.

SCHOOL MEDICAL CLINIC : Every morning, 9—12, except Sunday.

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER'S CLINIC : Every Wednesday morning,  
10—12 a.m. Friday (Special appointment) 11—12 a.m.

INFANT WELFARE CLINIC : Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday,  
2—4 p.m.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S CLINIC : Tuesday, 2-30—3-30 p.m.

IMMUNISATION CLINIC : Tuesday, 2—2-30 p.m., Friday, 10—11 a.m.

OBSTETRICIAN'S ANTE-NATAL CLINIC AND POST-NATAL CLINIC :  
Thursday, 2—4 p.m.

## PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

### (a) General.

The Borough Council makes an annual contribution to the funds of the District Nursing Association, a voluntary body affiliated to the County Nursing Association. This Association operates the general home nursing in the district.

### (b) Infectious Diseases.

The Borough Council imburse the Nursing Association on a per visit rate when cases of puerperal pyrexia, pneumonia, etc., require nursing at home.

The Health Visitors and School Nurses are ever ready to advise on sick nursing in the homes.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

### 1. HEALTH VISITING.

The health visiting in the Borough is undertaken by four Health Visitors, who are also School Nurses.

Number of visits paid during the year:—

|                        |     |     |     |       |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Visits : —First visits | ... | ... | ... | 496   |
| Revisits, under 1 year | ... | ... | ... | 2850  |
| Children 1–5 years     | ... | ... | ... | 5028  |
| Expectant Mothers :—   |     |     |     |       |
| First visits           | ... | ... | ... | 317   |
| Revisits               | ... | ... | ... | 510   |
| Infectious Diseases    | ... | ... | ... | 71    |
| Infant Life Protection | ... | ... | ... | 1     |
| Special visits         | ... | ... | ... | 258   |
| Total                  |     |     |     | 9,531 |

### CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

One mother was admitted to a Home under a scheme for the care of illegitimate children and unmarried mothers, operated by the Lancashire County Council for those authorities contributing to the scheme.

### CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS.

There were 22 deaths of children under 12 months during the year, and of these 8 were prematurely born infants.

The total number of infants belonging to the district who were notified as premature births was 34, and of these 26 were maintained in hospital during the first few weeks of life. 8 premature infants were born at home.

|                                    |     |     |     |    |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Premature infants born at home     | ... | ... | ... | 8  |
| Premature infants born in hospital | ... | ... | ... | 26 |
| Nursed entirely at home            | ... | ... | ... | 8  |

Of those born in hospital 7 died during the first 24 hours, and 18 were surviving at the end of 1 month.

Arrangements are made for the hospital accommodation of all premature born children, and on the rare occasions when a premature infant is nursed at home, the Health Visitor of the district is available to help and advise.

### 2. CHILD WELFARE CLINIC.

The Child Welfare Clinic is held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 2—4 p.m. At the end of the year, 492 children under the age of 12 months had attended the clinic and of these 447 were making their first visit.

There were 746 children over 12 months attending the clinic, of which 26 were making their first visit, and the total number of attendances of all children was 8,124, thus giving an average attendance of 53 per session.

At the Medical Officer's Clinic 672 consultations were given during the year.

### 3. ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINIC.

This clinic is held on Thursday afternoons, at 2 p.m. and during 1946 the Consultant Obstetrician attended 49 sessions.

The total of 1301 attendances represented 526 expectant mothers. Of this number, 248 were having their first babies (primiparæ). The age group of the primiparæ are given in the following table:—

| Under 20 | 20-25 | 25-30 | 30-35 | 35-40 | Over 40 |
|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|
| 16       | 113   | 76    | 32    | 11    | —       |

Hospital accommodation for expectant mothers is limited and is only afforded to those requiring it on medical grounds or where unsuitable home conditions exist. During 1946, there were 232 expectant mothers admitted to Townleys Hospital and 5 to St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, under the Council's scheme. Of the 526 mothers in attendance at the ante and post-natal clinics, 367 were confined during the year under review. The following table gives particulars of these cases:—

|  |     |                     |     | Primiparæ. | Multiparæ. |
|--|-----|---------------------|-----|------------|------------|
| Confinement at home                          | ... | ...                 | ... | 39         | 74         |
| „  | „   | Townleys Hospital   | ... | 124        | 121        |
| „  | „   | St. Mary's Hospital | ... | 2          | 3          |
| „  | „   | other Institutions  | ... | 3          | 1          |
| Total  |     |                     |     | 168        | 199        |
| Vertex presentation                          | ... | ...                 | ... | 158        | 190        |
| Breech presentation                          | ... | ...                 | ... | 6          | 3          |
| Other presentation                           | ... | ...                 | ... | 3          | 2          |
| B.B.A. (born before arrival of Dr. or nurse) | ... | ...                 | ... | 1          | 7          |
| Normal labour                                | ... | ...                 | ... | 141        | 190        |
| Prolonged labour                             | ... | ...                 | ... | 6          | 1          |
| Induced labour                               | ... | ...                 | ... | —          | —          |
| Instrumental delivery                        | ... | ...                 | ... | 14         | 3          |
| Cæsarian section                             | ... | ...                 | ... | 7          | 5          |
| Ante-partum hæmorrhage                       | ... | ...                 | ... | —          | 1          |
| Intra-partum hæmorrhage                      | ... | ...                 | ... | 1          | 1          |
| Post-partum hæmorrhage                       | ... | ...                 | ... | —          | 1          |
| Placenta prævia                              | ... | ...                 | ... | —          | 1          |
| Placenta adherent                            | ... | ...                 | ... | 4          | —          |
| Ruptured perineum                            | ... | ...                 | ... | 30         | 11         |
| Termination of pregnancy                     | ... | ...                 | ... | —          | 1          |
| Albuminuria                                  | ... | ...                 | ... | 4          | 1          |
| Thrombo phlebitis                            | ... | ...                 | ... | 1          | 1          |
| Maternal death                               | ... | ...                 | ... | 1          | 1          |

#### Condition of child :

|                     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Alive and well      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 158 | 190 |
| Still-born          | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9   | 6   |
| Died within 1 month | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1   | 6   |

During the year, 530 expectant mothers making 3,359 attendances were seen at the Clinic by the Health Visitors. These were in turn referred to the Consultant Obstetrician's Clinic.

There were three maternal deaths during the year. One of these, a multipara aged 28, and a primipara aged 31 died in hospital of pulmonary embolism. The third fatality was a primipara aged 42 who died in hospital of cardiac failure following obstetric shock.

#### 4. CONVALESCENT HOMES.

The Lear Home of Recovery, West Kirby, receives post-natal cases requiring convalescence.

#### 5. HOME HELPS.

In four instances during the year Home Helps were supplied. The conditions of employment and services are comparable with the scheme operating in the adjacent County areas.

#### 6. EMERGENCY UNIT.

An emergency unit is provided by St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, for use in the Borough when required. This service was not needed during 1946.

#### 7. INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

There were no cases on the register during the year under review.

#### 8. DENTAL TREATMENT.

For expectant and nursing mothers.

|                                       |     |    |
|---------------------------------------|-----|----|
| No. of mothers referred for treatment | ... | 45 |
| „ „ „ treated                         | ... | 21 |
| „ „ attendances                       | ... | 74 |
| „ „ permanent fillings                | ... | 42 |
| „ „ „ extractions                     | ... | 2  |
| „ „ scalings and polishings           | ... | 8  |
| Other treatment to permanent teeth    | ... | 33 |

For pre-school children.

|  |     |    |
|--|-----|----|
| No. of children referred for treatment | ... | 34 |
| „ „ „ treated                          | ... | 32 |
| „ „ attendances                        | ... | 50 |
| „ „ fillings in temporary teeth        | ... | 11 |
| „ „ temporary extractions              | ... | 27 |
| „ „ cases given advice                 | ... | 13 |
| Other treatment to temporary teeth     | ... | 3  |

## 9. MINOR AILMENTS.

270 pre-school children attended the morning clinics for treatment, making 1,247 attendances during the year.

## 10. THROAT, NOSE AND EAR DEFECTS.

Dr. W. B. McKelvie, Aural Surgeon to the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee and to the Education Committee, held 8 sessions during the year. 8 pre-school children were examined and treated.

9 pre-school children had operative treatment at Townleys Hospital.

## 11. ORTHOPÆDICS.

Particulars relating to the treatment of Farnworth pre-school children at the Kearsley Orthopædic Clinic during the year, 1946 :

|                                     |     |    |
|-------------------------------------|-----|----|
| No. of individual children attended | ... | 25 |
| Total number of attendances made    | ... | 49 |

Orthopædic defects :—

|  |     |     |   |
|--|-----|-----|---|
| Infantile paralysis (lower limb)         | ... | ... | 1 |
| Congenital dislocation of hip            | ... | ... | 2 |
| Congenital rudimentary & malformed limbs | ... | ... | 1 |
| Pes planus                               | ... | ... | 6 |
| Medical neuroses                         | ... | ... | 1 |
| Adduction fifth toe                      | ... | ... | 1 |
| Other congenital deformities             | ... | ... | 2 |
| Genu valgum                              | ... | ... | 8 |
| Congenital metatarsus varus              | ... | ... | 1 |
| No abnormality found                     | ... | ... | 2 |

## 12. EYE DEFECTS.

During the year 43 pre-school children were examined by the Ophthalmic Surgeon of the School Medical Service. Glasses were necessary in 12 cases.

## 13. WAR-TIME NURSERIES.

These were closed on March 23rd, 1946. The average daily attendance up to the date of closure was :

|                            |     |     |     |    |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Park Street Nursery        | ... | ... | ... | 31 |
| Bridgewater Street Nursery | ... | ... | ... | 37 |

## 14. CLEANLINESS.

The hygiene of the home and the child is one of the main duties of the Health Visitors.

There is a gradual improvement in the incidence of head lice in children but it is essential that a high degree of surveillance be exercised if this gradual improvement is to be maintained.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

### DIPHTHERIA.

There were fourteen cases of diphtheria notified during the year 8 of which were not suffering from, but were carriers of, the disease, and had been immunised. 13 cases were treated in hospital and there were three fatal cases, all non-immunised children.

### DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN.

Antitoxin is available in 10,000 units free to general practitioners for patients resident in the Borough. During the year 240,000 units were issued.

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The table below gives the immunisation figures at the end of the year. The clinic for immunisation was held weekly.

Number of children completely immunised up to 31/12/46.

| Age at<br>31/12/46,<br>i.e., born in<br>year. | Under<br>1<br>1946 | 1<br>1945 | 2<br>1944 | 3<br>1943 | 4<br>1942 | 5 to 9<br>1937-41 | 10 to 14<br>1932-36 | Total<br>under 14 |
|---|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| No.<br>immunised.                             | 1                  | 205       | 351       | 358       | 306       | 1403              | 1501                | 4125              |

Estimated mid-  
year population  
1946.

Ages 1/4, 2,200.

Ages 5/14, 3,390.

Percentage  
of children  
immunised.

Ages 1/4, 55.5%.

Ages 5/14, 85.6%.

Each Health Visitor, who is also a School Nurse, superintends the immunising of children in her own area whose parents consent, and the success of any immunisation scheme depends, to a great extent, on the activity of the Health Visitor in this field of preventive medicine.

### SCARLET FEVER.

Out of 16 cases of scarlet fever notified during the year, 9 were treated in hospital. There were no deaths due to this disease.

### PNEUMONIA.

There were 27 cases notified and there were 4 deaths.

## PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

There were only two cases of puerperal pyrexia belonging to Farnworth. In addition, there were 10 cases notified from Townleys Hospital, which is situated within the Farnworth Borough, but the patients concerned were from outside the Borough.

## OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

There were two cases notified during the year, one of which was a Farnworth child and the other was notified from Townleys Hospital and belonged to an outside district.

### Infectious Diseases, 1946 :—

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Scarlet fever.               | 16  |
| Diphtheria.                  | 14  |
| Acute primary pneumonia.     | 26  |
| Influenzal pneumonia.        | 1   |
| Puerperal pyrexia.           | 12  |
| Ophthalmia neonatorum.       | 2   |
| Cerebro-spinal fever.        | 3   |
| Erysipelas.                  | 4   |
| Measles.                     | 61  |
| Whooping cough.              | 122 |
| Malaria (contracted abroad). | 3   |

### Treated in hospital :—

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Scarlet fever ... ..        | 9  |
| Diphtheria ... ..           | 13 |
| Cerebro-spinal fever ... .. | 1  |
| Whooping cough ... ..       | 2  |
| Erysipelas ... ..           | 1  |

## TUBERCULOSIS :

### Cases notified :—

|                        |    |
|------------------------|----|
| Respiratory ... ..     | 11 |
| Non-respiratory ... .. | 4  |

The treatment of tuberculosis is undertaken by the County Council.

## SCABIES.

The treatment of scabies is now more intensive, and this has resulted in a reduction of attendances necessary to effect a cure.

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| No. of pre-school children treated ... | 35  |
| „ „ „ „ attendances                    | 59  |
| „ „ school children treated ...        | 96  |
| „ „ „ „ attendances...                 | 170 |
| „ „ adults treated ... ..              | 24  |
| „ „ „ attendances ... ..               | 47  |

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### WATER SUPPLY.

The town is supplied with water by Bolton Corporation. The water is derived from upland gathering grounds and is filtered and treated before going into supply. It is soft in nature and satisfactory in quality and quantity. All dwellings in the Borough are supplied directly with water.

Frequent chemical and bacteriological examinations are made by Bolton Corporation Waterworks Department.

The following is a summary of the results of bacteriological examinations, chemical analyses, etc., supplied by Bolton Waterworks Department :—

No. of bacteriological examinations of the raw water—48.

Results—Generally filtration and treatment necessary.

No. of chemical analyses—11.

Results—Generally filtration and treatment necessary.

Water going into supply, where treatment is installed :—

No. of bacteriological examinations—48.

Results—Generally of excellent quality, absence of B. Coli in 100 mils—100%.

No. of chemical analyses—11.

Results—Generally of excellent quality.

No action was necessary in respect of any form of contamination.

No liability to plumbo-solvent action.

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

This is almost entirely on the combined system. There is one main sewage disposal plant at Hall Lane Sewage Works, and a subsidiary plant at Lark Hill.

### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Accommodation at the end of 1946 :—

|                                     |     |     |     |      |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Number of privy middens             | ... | ... | ... | 3    |
| „ closets attached to these middens | ... | ... | ... | 9    |
| „ pail closets                      | ... | ... | ... | 5    |
| „ fresh water closets               | ... | ... | ... | 8967 |
| „ waste water closets               | ... | ... | ... | 269  |
| „ dry ashpits (excluding middens)   | ... | ... | ... | Nil  |
| „ movable ashbins for refuse        | ... | ... | ... | 8551 |
| „ houses on water carriage system   | ... | ... | ... | 8358 |

Despite the prevailing difficulties, 7 waste water closets were converted to fresh water closets and 3 privies to fresh water closets.

## COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

There is a weekly collection of all household refuse in Farnworth, and at the same time a collection of salvage. The refuse is taken to a tip situated away from all dwelling houses, where controlled tipping is in operation. This work is carried out by three covered motor vehicles, and the staff of the Cleansing Department under the Borough Surveyor.

### Sanitary Inspections during 1946 (including Housing).

No. of premises visited, 1440.

Number of visits :—

|                         |     |     |      |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|------|
| Housing and Nuisances   | ... | ... | 3026 |
| Dairies                 | ... | ... | 40   |
| Farms                   | ... | ... | 63   |
| Ice Cream Premises      | ... | ... | 84   |
| Food Preparing Premises | ... | ... | 48   |
| Bakehouses              | ... | ... | 85   |
| Butchers' Shop          | ... | ... | 31   |
| Fish Fryers             | ... | ... | 26   |
| Shops                   | ... | ... | 132  |
| Factories               | ... | ... | 207  |
| Rat Infestations...     | ... | ... | 284  |
| Disinfections           | ... | ... | 23   |
| Disinfestations         | ... | ... | 39   |
| Infectious diseases     | ... | ... | 57   |
| Overcrowding            | ... | ... | 173  |
| Public Houses           | ... | ... | 8    |
| Miscellaneous           | ... | ... | 310  |

Defects or nuisances : No. discovered 2282, No. abated 2207.

No. of notices served : Preliminary 826, Statutory 201.

Legal proceedings were taken in one case of non-compliance with a Statutory Notice. An abatement order of the Court was made, together with costs, against the defendant.

#### Shops and Offices—

|   | Inspections | Defects and<br>Contraven-<br>tions | Remedies |
|---|-------------|------------------------------------|----------|
| (a) Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences            | 132         | 9                                  | 9        |
| (b) Public Health Act, 1936, relating to conditions in offices, i.e., ventilation, sanitary conveniences, etc | 2           | 1                                  | 1        |

## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

17 observations were taken during the year.

No action was necessary as a result of these observations.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

|   | No. of In-<br>spections | Notices | Prosecu-<br>tions |
|---|-------------------------|---------|-------------------|
| 1. Factories with mechanical power        | 91                      | 8       | —                 |
| Factories without mechanical power ... .. | 108                     | 9       | —                 |
| Other premises ... ..                     | 8                       | 1       | —                 |
| 2. No. of defects found ... ..            | 19                      |         |                   |

The 207 inspections carried out under the Factories Act, 1937, comprised visits to cotton mills, woodwork factory, engineering works, foundries, joiners' shops, bakehouses with mechanical installations, etc. The inspections include at least one visit per year to every building coming within purview of the Act.

Defects in the 18 instances were remedied forthwith.

## ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Particulars of action taken during the year.

No. of houses disinfested :—

(a) By Hydrogen Cyanide (carried out by Contractor)

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| (1) Council houses ... .. | Nil |
| (2) Other houses ... ..   | Nil |

The belongings of one family being re-housed in a Corporation house were fumigated with hydrogen cyanide in the course of removal.

(b) Insecticides (D.D.T.)

|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| (1) Council houses ... .. | 5  |
| (2) Other houses ... ..   | 42 |

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

There are 9 dairy farms in the district with approximately 250 cows. The farms are inspected at frequent intervals for sanitary defects, and to ensure that the provisions of The Milk and Dairies Orders are carried out. They are all provided with suitable dairies.

63 visits were made to farms and 40 visits to dairies.

A large, modern pasteurising plant is situated in the town and this receives careful supervision and frequent inspection.

## EXAMINATION OF MILK SAMPLES.

Of the 44 samples of milk examined during the year 10 were found to be bacteriologically unsatisfactory. The producers were informed of the results and subsequent samples were satisfactory.

The tubercle bacillus was found in 2 samples, and the appropriate steps for the removal of the infected animals were taken.

### (b) EXAMINATION OF ICE CREAM.

Ice cream preparing premises have been visited frequently, 84 inspections having been made of the 7 manufacturers in the town. 12 samples of ice cream were sent for bacteriological examination. 3 of these were found to be unsatisfactory, i.e., 25% as compared with 50% unsatisfactory in 1945.

### (c) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

All premises where food is stored or exposed for sale are inspected frequently, 190 such inspections being made during the year.

The following food was condemned and surrendered during the year : 466 lbs. beef, 52 lbs. lamb, 79 lbs. bacon, 50 lbs. dried peaches, 26 lbs. margarine, 228 lbs. sultanas,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. butter and 486 tins assorted canned foods.

The methods of handling and transporting meat from abattoirs at Manchester to the butchers' shops in the town continue to be unsatisfactory and below the standard laid down in the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924. If the present policy of meat distribution is to continue, the meat should be transported in well designed, covered vehicles, staffed by men trained, clothed and equipped to handle this important food hygienically.

### (d) ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The County Council is the Authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, and samples are taken by the County Sanitary Officer in collaboration with the local Sanitary Officer.

Particulars of samples taken during the year :—

|                |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Milk           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 121 |
| Other articles | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 29  |

13 samples of milk were found to be unsatisfactory and one sample of Golden Raising Powder was not up to standard. Appropriate action was taken in each case.

## RODENT CONTROL.

During the year, the work of rodent control was intensified. Two part-time rodent operatives were employed. A maintenance treatment of the sewerage system of the town was carried out, in which poisoned bait was laid in 348 manholes resulting in an estimated kill of 1,530 rats.

In addition, 2 “reservoir” infestations, 14 major and 206 minor infestations were treated, resulting in an estimated kill of 5,380 rats. 183 minor and 11 major infestations were completely cleared and 2 “reservoir” and 3 major infestations reduced to minor infestations.

## HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

|     |                                   |     |
|-----|-----------------------------------|-----|
| (1) | By the local authority ... ..     | 95  |
|     | (including 66 temporary houses)   |     |
| (2) | By other local authorities ... .. | Nil |
| (3) | By other bodies or persons ... .. | Nil |

### 1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year.

|     |     |  |      |
|-----|-----|--|------|
| (1) | (a) | Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..   | 610  |
|     | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose ...   | 3026 |
| (2) | (a) | Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... ..   | 3    |
|     | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose ...   | 6    |
| (3) |     | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..                                    | 3    |
| (4) |     | Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... .. | 608  |

### 2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

|  |  |     |
|--|--|-----|
|  | Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers ... .. | 323 |
|--|--|-----|

### 3. Action under statutory powers during the year :—

|     |   |   |
|-----|---|---|
| (a) | Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :                  |   |
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | 2 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:— |   |
|     | (a) By owners ... ..  | 2 |
|     | (b) By local authority in default of owners   | — |

|   |   |        |     |
|---|---|--------|-----|
| (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :                          |   |        |     |
| (1)   | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied  | ... .. | 104 |
| (2)   | Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:   |        |     |
| (a)   | By owners   | ... .. | 89  |
| (b)   | By local authority in default of owners   |        | Nil |
| (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 : |   |        |     |
| (1)   | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made   | ...    | Nil |
|   | (3 dangerous houses demolished by the owner following informal action).   |        |     |
| (2)   | Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders  | ... .. | Nil |
| (d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :         |   |        |     |
| (1)   | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made  | ... .. | Nil |
| (2)   | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... .. | Nil |

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :—

|     |       |  |        |     |
|-----|-------|--|--------|-----|
| (a) | (i)   | Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year       | ... .. | 111 |
|     | (ii)  | Number of families dwelling therein                          | ...    | 189 |
|     | (iii) | Number of persons dwelling therein                           | ...    | 932 |
| (b) |       | Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | ... .. | 82  |
| (c) | (i)   | Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year     | ... .. | 26  |
|     | (ii)  | Number of persons concerned in such cases                    |        | 139 |

## HOUSING CONDITIONS.

### 1. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AS TO HOUSING CONDITIONS.

85% of the privately owned houses in the town are of the 4 roomed cotttage type, with separate yards and external water closets. Most of them are more than 50 years old, are built in monotonous rows, lack baths, hot water systems and larders. Continual repairs are needed to these houses, which were badly built in the first instance and have suffered from lack of maintenance during the past few years.

### 2. SUFFICIENCY OF HOUSES.

Approximately 750 families are living in lodgings in the district and overcrowding is common. Even where the house is not overcrowded according to the admittedly low standard of the Housing Act, 1935, difficulties arise where two or more families have to share one house.

The number of dwellings needed is approximately 15 bungalows, 300 cottages and 400 three bedroom type.

### 3. FITNESS OF HOUSES.

Notices for repairs are continually being served by the Health Department. Difficulties exist arising from the shortage of materials and the high cost of repair work. Nevertheless, of 2282 defects found during the year, 2207 were remedied.

3 houses, which were in a dangerous condition, were demolished following informal action by the Department.





